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For Immediate Release: September 24, 2008

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**14<sup>th</sup> Annual MA Fire & Life Safety Education Conference in Taunton**

***2008 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award***

***Keynote Address Delivered by William Delaney, Montgomery County (MD) Fire & Rescue***

Over 250 classroom teachers, nurses, firefighters, school resource officers and injury prevention experts gathered at the Taunton Holiday Inn on September 23 and 24, 2008 for two days of training and skill development in 30 workshops and four general sessions presented by 41 speakers. There were core workshops for new fire and life safety educators; workshops on new ideas, programs and teaching techniques to keep educators current; and workshops that continue to challenge and develop new skills for experienced educators.

**Mansfield ‘Young Heroes’ to Open Conference**

Two “young heroes” from the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program, Kelsey Attaya and Lauren Melton, opened the conference telling their story of responding to a house fire in Mansfield. Their quick actions are credited with saving a neighbor’s home and their dog from a fire.

*Administrative Services • Hazardous Materials Response*  
*Massachusetts Firefighting Academy • Office of the State Fire Marshal*

**2008 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award**

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan presented the *2007 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award* to University of Massachusetts Amherst Fire Prevention Officer Michael Swain. FPO Swain received the *2008 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award* for his work to teach students to be fire safe on college campus in Massachusetts and nationally through the Center for College Fire Safety. He has tirelessly spent his whole career making college campuses safer through education. His unrelenting enthusiasm for the work both on and off the clock and his ability to mentor other fire and life safety educators is being recognized. Nine finalists were also honored:

- Deputy Chief Charlie Doody, Canton Fire Dept.
- Mr. David Moura, Teacher, Dighton Reg. High School
- FF Edward Gavin Jr. and FF/EMT Ryan Herrick, Halifax Fire Dept.
- FF Oona Aldrich S.A.F.E. Educator, Harvard Fire Dept.
- FF Maria V. Pelchar, Holyoke Fire Dept.
- FF Michael McLeieer, Merrimac Fire Dept.
- Chief George L. Robichaud, Monson Fire Dept.
- FF Tim Kelly, Princeton Fire Dept.
- FF Matthew Bruso, SAFE Educator, Williamsburg Fire Dept.

**Montgomery County's William Delaney Keynote Speaker**

William Delaney, Program Manager of Community Safety Education in Montgomery County (MD) Fire & Rescue Service delivered the keynote address, *Cultural Change: Position Life Safety Education as a Part of Your Department's Culture* on September 24, 2008. He explored what role fire and life safety educators can play in changing the community's attitude towards fire, and what internal attitude changes need to happen first.